

**What Is Claimed Is:**

1. A method for allowing a calling party to control a call to a called party, comprising the steps of:
  - (a) receiving a plurality of call preferences from said calling party using a first communication device to contact a called party having a second communication device;
  - (b) processing said call through at least one call control entity (CCE); and
  - (c) monitoring said plurality of call preferences by said CCE.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein after step (c), prompting by said CCE of the calling party for another call preference for said call to another communication device if said calling party is not in communication with said called party.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said call preferences are selected from a group consisting of URL address, website address, email address, phone number, facsimile number, cellular number and pager number.
4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said plurality of call preferences contains at least one alternative destination number/address for completing said call.
5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said CCE attempts to complete said call in the order of preference expressed by said calling party after each prompt.
6. The method of Claim 1, wherein said first communication device is selected from a group consisting of a computer, a PDA (Personal Digital Assistant), a cellular telephone, a telephone, a mobile phone, a customer premise equipment, a wired telephone, a PC (Personal Computer), a pager and a facsimile machine.
7. The method of Claim 1, wherein said second communication device is selected from

a group consisting of a computer, a PDA (Personal Digital Assistant), a cellular telephone, a telephone, a mobile phone, a customer premise equipment, a wired telephone, a PC (Personal Computer), a pager and a facsimile machine.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein said call preferences by said calling party are stored at a location selected from a group consisting of said first communication device, said CCE, a telephone exchange and the Internet.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein said CCE resides at a location selected from a group consisting of PBX, Centrex, PSTN, the Internet and said first communication device.

10. The method of Claim 1, wherein said first communication device has at least one means to display the called party number/address.

11. The method of Claim 1, wherein said first communication device has at least one means to display and select the call preferences.

12. A method for allowing a calling party to control a call to a called party, comprising the steps of:

(a) attempting a call by a calling party using a first communication device to contact a called party having a second communication device;

(b) processing said call through at least one call control entity (CCE);

(c) said CCE prompting said calling party to provide at least one call preference in the event that said attempt failed to setup said call between said first communication device of said calling party and said second communication device of said called party; and

(d) monitoring said at least one call preference by said CCE.

13. A method for allowing a calling party to control a call attempt to a called party, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving a plurality of call preferences from said calling party;

(b) processing said call from a communication device through at least one call control entity (CCE); and

(c) monitoring said plurality of call preferences by said CCE.

14. The method of Claim 13, wherein after step (c) said CCE, in the event that said calling party is not in communication with said called party, terminates said call attempt and prompts said calling party to enter another preference identifying a communication device associated with said called party.

15. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for allowing a calling party to control a call to a called party, the method steps comprising:

(a) providing a plurality of call preferences at the initiation of a call by said calling party using a first communication device to contact a called party having a second communication device;

(b) processing said call through at least one call control entity (CCE); and

(c) monitoring said plurality of call preferences by said CCE.

16. A communication apparatus comprising at least one call control entity (CCE), said CCE having at least one means for processing a plurality of call preferences designated by a calling party at the initiation of a call.

17. A communication apparatus comprising at least one call control entity (CCE), said CCE having at least one means for processing a plurality of call preferences designated by a calling party, and at least one means for prompting said calling party to provide another call preference for said call in the event that said calling party is not in communication with said called party.

18. A communication apparatus comprising at least one call control entity (CCE), said CCE adapted to process a plurality of call preferences at the initiation of a call by a calling

party, said CCE adapted to facilitate communication between said calling party and a called party based upon said plurality of call preferences designated by said calling party, and said CCE adapted to monitoring said plurality of call preferences until a communication is established between said calling party and said called party.

19. A communication apparatus which routes a plurality of calls through a communications network, the apparatus providing the calling party with the ability to contact the called party using a plurality of communications devices and a plurality of contact numbers, the apparatus comprising:

- at least one CCE for receiving a request from said calling party for contacting said called party with a plurality of preferences designated during the initiation of said call by said calling party;

- at least one communication system for transmitting, in response to the received request, said request to contact said called party; and

- said CCE having at least one means to monitor said plurality of preferences.

20. A communication apparatus which routes a plurality of calls through a communications network, the apparatus providing the calling party with the ability to contact the called party using a plurality of communications devices and a plurality of contact numbers, the apparatus comprising:

- at least one CCE for receiving a request from said calling party for contacting said called party with a plurality of preferences designated by said calling party;

- at least one communication system for transmitting, in response to the received request, said request to contact said called party;

- said CCE having at least one means to monitor said plurality of preferences;

- said CCE having at least one means to terminate said call if said communication system does not meet said preferences requested by said calling party; and

- said CCE having at least one means to prompt the calling party to provide additional information to continue processing of said call to said called party.

21. A communications equipment used for routing calls, the communications equipment comprising:

- at least one CCE for receiving a request from said calling party for contacting said called party with a plurality of preferences designated by said calling party at the initiation of said call;

- at least one communication system for transmitting, in response to the received request, said request to contact said called party; and

- said CCE having at least one means to monitor said plurality of preferences.

22. A communications equipment used for routing calls, the communications equipment comprising:

- at least one CCE for receiving a request from said calling party for contacting said called party with a plurality of preferences designated by said calling party;

- at least one communication system for transmitting, in response to the received request, said request to contact said called party;

- said CCE having at least one means to monitor said plurality of preferences;

- said CCE having at least one means to terminate said call if said communication system does not meet said preferences requested by said calling party; and

- said CCE having at least one means to prompt the calling party to provide additional information to continue processing of said call to said called party.

23. A method for use by a telecommunications service provider in offering a telecommunications service, said method comprising the steps of:

- receiving a request from a calling party for access to said telecommunications service, wherein said calling party provides a plurality of call preferences;

- providing said calling party with the ability to contact a called party as a function of contact information provided directly by the calling party and which is independent from any information originating from the telecommunications service;

- routing a call to said called party, in response to the received request from the calling party to the telecommunications service;

monitoring said call and terminating said call if said calling party preferences are not met during the routing of said call; and

prompting said calling party to provide additional information to continue processing of said call to said called party.